

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of extruding an individual polyhedron shaped slabs of dry ice from a source of liquid CO₂, said method comprising the ~~following steps of:~~
 - blocking ~~and~~ a substantially rectangular shaped extruding slot in a die at an end of a cylinder of a dry ice extruding machine;
 - injecting said liquid CO₂ from said source into said cylinder of said dry ice extruding machine to form gaseous CO₂ (snow) and solid CO₂ therein;
 - degassing said cylinder to remove gaseous CO₂ through vents from said cylinder while forming said snow in said cylinder;
 - building a puck in said end of said cylinder having said extruding slot in said die by moving a pressure piston back and forth in said cylinder of said dry ice extruding machine during said injecting;
 - unblocking said extruding slot to allow dry ice to be extruded therethrough in the form of a continuous polyhedron shaped slab disposed outside of said cylinder;
 - breaking, outside of said cylinder, said extruded continuous slab of dry ice upon the length thereof reaching a predetermined distance to ~~give said~~ provide an individual slab of dry ice; and
 - repeating said breaking step to create as many of said individual slabs of dry ice as desired.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of extruding a slab of dry ice from a source of liquid CO₂ as recited in Claim ~~1~~ 21, including after said unblocking step an additional step of sensing when said slab of dry ice being extruded has reached said predetermined distance to give a sizing control signal.
3. (Original) The method of extruding a slab of dry ice from a source of liquid CO₂ as recited Claim 2, wherein said sizing control signal activates a sizing mechanism for said breaking of said slab of extruded dry ice into a predetermined length which corresponds with said predetermined distance.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of extruding a slab of dry ice from a source of liquid CO₂ as recited in claim ~~3~~ 21, further including at the outer end of said extruding slot a forming chamber with a substantially rectangular shaped forming slot therein for receiving said slab of extruded dry ice therethrough, said forming slot allowing said slab of extruded dry ice to set before said breaking step.

5. (Original) The method of extruding a slab of dry ice from a source of liquid CO₂ as recited in Claim 4, wherein said sizing mechanism moves a sizing block adjacent said forming chamber for said breaking of said extruded dry ice in said predetermined length.
6. (Original) The method of extruding a slab of dry ice from a source of liquid CO₂ as recited in Claim 5, wherein said sizing mechanism is pneumatically operated and said pressure piston is hydraulically operated.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of extruding a slab of dry ice from a source of liquid CO₂ as recited in Claim ~~±21~~, including a removable gate for said blocking and said unblocking of said extruding slot.
8. (Original) The method of extruding a slab of dry ice form a source of liquid CO₂ as recited in Claim 7, wherein said removable gate is activated by a gate cylinder.
9. (Original) The method of extruding a slab of dry ice from a source of liquid CO₂ as recited in Claim 8, wherein said removable gate is pressed against said extruding slot until a puck is formed in said cylinder.
10. (Original) A die for connecting to an extrusion chamber of a dry ice extruding machine, said die being used to extrude dry ice therethrough from a source of liquid CO₂ said die comprising:
 - generally rectangular shaped hole in said die for extruding dry ice from said condensing chamber of said dry ice extruding machine therethrough, said generally rectangular shaped hole being tapered for proper extrusion;
 - forming chamber having a similar generally rectangular shaped hole therein, said die and said forming chamber being adjacent, said forming chamber being of sufficient length to allow extruded dry ice to set up in a solid form in said similar generally rectangular shaped hole; and
 - means for attaching said die to an end of said extrusion chamber of said dry ice extruding machine;
11. (Original) A die for connecting to an extrusion chamber of a dry ice extruding machine, said die being used to extrude dry ice therethrough from a source of liquid CO₂ as recited in

Claim 10, said die further including a block for removably blocking said similar oblong shaped hole until a puck has formed in said dry ice extruding machine.

12. (Original) A die for connecting to an extrusion chamber of a dry ice extruding machine, said die being used to extrude dry ice therethrough from a source of liquid CO₂ as recited in Claim 11, wherein said die further including a sizing mechanism for breaking off said extruded dry ice in predetermined lengths.

13. (Original) A die for connecting to an extrusion chamber of a dry ice extruding machine, said die being used to extrude dry ice therethrough from a source of liquid CO₂ as recited in Claim 12, wherein said die further including a sensor for determining when said extruded dry ice reaches said predetermined length to activate said sizing mechanism.

14. (Currently Amended) A dry ice extruding machine for extruding polyhedron shaped slabs of dry ice from a source of liquid CO₂, a source of power connecting to said dry ice extruding machine, said dry ice extruding machine comprising:

a frame;

at least one extrusion cylinder mounted on said frame;

a piston in said extrusion cylinder;

connection of power from said source of power to said piston to cause back and forth movement of said piston in said extrusion cylinder;

injection ports on said extrusion cylinder for injecting said liquid CO₂ into said extrusion cylinder and flashing said liquid CO₂ into gaseous and solid CO₂;

vents on said extrusion cylinder for venting said gaseous CO₂ from said extrusion cylinder;

a substantially rectangular shaped die mounted on a first end of said extrusion cylinder, said die having a slot therein for extruding a continuous polyhedron shaped slab of said solid CO₂ therethrough; ~~and~~

a blocking device for blocking said slot until a puck has formed in said first end of said extrusion of cylinder and thereafter removing said blocking device; and

a breaking device, disposed outside of said extrusion cylinder, for breaking said extruded continuous slab upon the length thereof reaching a predetermined distance.

15. (Currently Amended) The dry ice extruding machine for extruding slabs of dry ice from a source of liquid CO₂ as recited in claim ~~14~~23 wherein said connection of power is a hydraulic cylinder driving said piston through a second end of said extrusion cylinder.

16. (Original) The dry ice extruding machine for extruding slabs of dry ice from a source of liquid CO₂ as recited in claim 15 wherein said dry ice extruding machine includes a sensor for determining if said slab has reached a predetermined length and generating a sizing control signal, said sizing control signal activating a sizing mechanism to break said slab into said predetermined length.

17. (Currently Amended) The dry ice extruding machine for extruding slabs of dry ice from a source of liquid CO₂ as recited in claim 16 wherein said die further includes a forming chamber with a rectangular shaped forming slot therein so that said slab can set before being broken into said predetermined length.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The dry ice extruding machine for extruding slabs of dry ice from a source of liquid CO₂ as recited in claim ~~16-17~~ wherein said sizing mechanism is a block that moves adjacent and parallel to an outer face of said forming chamber to break said slab into said predetermined length, said block being pneumatically operated.

20. (Currently Amended) The dry ice extruding machine for extruding slabs of dry ice from a source of liquid CO₂ as recited in claim ~~14-23~~ wherein said block device is pressed on outer opening of said slot to prevent escape of CO₂ therethrough while forming said puck.

21. (New) The method of claim 1 including tapering the extruding slot.

22. (New) The method of claim 21 including tapering the extruding slot with an approximately 1° taper.

23. (New) The dry ice extruding machine of claim 14 in which said substantially rectangular shaped die is tapered.

24. (New) The dry ice extruding machine of claim 23 in which said tapered die includes an approximately 1° taper.